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Implementation Update

House Higher Education Committee, March 29, 2005

***2004 Strategic Master Plan for Higher
Education***

House Bill 3103

***‘Changing Direction’ Grant from
Lumina Foundation for Education***

Master Plan and HB 3103

2004 master plan contains two overarching goals and 11 related policy initiatives

HB 3103, enacted last year, revised and updated HECB roles and responsibilities. Many elements reflected in master plan

‘Changing Direction’ grant, funded by Lumina, promotes strategic linkage of state funding, tuition, and financial aid

Strategic Master Plan

Goal 1: Increase opportunities for students to earn degrees

- Increase number of students who earn college degrees by 7,200 (to reach 68,500 per year by 2010)
- 3,300 more associate degrees each year (to reach 27,000 per year by 2010)
- 2,800 more bachelor's degrees (30,000 by 2010)
- 1,100 more graduate/professional degrees (11,500 by 2010)

Strategic Master Plan

Goal 2: Respond to the state's economic needs

- Increase to 1,500 per year the number of students in high-demand fields and programs who earn degrees and are prepared for work
- Increase the number of students who complete job training programs to reach 25,000 per year
- Increase the number of students in adult basic education/ ESL programs who demonstrate improved literacy skills to reach 20,525 by 2010

Master plan policy initiative

1. Funding for Student Success

Outcomes-based System/Performance Contracts

- Research universities and several comprehensive universities have developed prototype performance contracts

Higher Education Finances

- Gov. Gregoire's proposed study: Develop options for a new higher education funding system (SSB 5441/HB 1380)

Master plan policy initiative

2. Allocating Student Enrollments

Simulation Model (called for in 2004 budget)

- Completed a preliminary model to help policymakers analyze impacts of various enrollment/funding options
- Model will help develop options for 'size and shape' of higher education system

Funding Student Enrollments, 2005-07

- HECB recommendation: Add 12,900 FTE enrollments (6,300 at 2-year colleges, 6,600 at 4-years)
- Gov. Gregoire budget: 6,633 FTE
- Senate chair budget: 8,120 FTE

Master plan policy initiative

3. More Graduates in High-demand Fields

New High-demand Enrollments, 2005-07

- HECB recommendation: 2,300 high-demand FTE enrollments (1,300 at 2-year colleges, 1,000 at 4-years)
- Gov. Gregoire budget: 100 at 2-years (SBCTC), 200 at 4-years (HECB)
- Senate chair budget: 977 at 2-years (SBCTC)

State/Regional Needs Assessment (HB 3103 and master plan)

- On track to develop preliminary inventory of all degree/certificate programs by Summer 2005
- Needs assessment framework by Summer 2005

Master plan policy initiative

4. Affordable and Predictable Tuition

Short-term Policy

- HECB recommendation: Limit tuition increases to average of 7% per year over four years (31% compounded) and maximum of 10% per year
- Gov. Gregoire budget: Up to 5% per year at 4-years, 3% per year at 2-years
- Senate chair budget: Up to 5% (CTCs), 6% (regionals and TESC), 7% (research) per year
- All proposals safeguard current GET program

Long-term Policy

- Gov. Gregoire's proposed study would tuition and state support (SSB 5441/HB 1380)

Master plan policy initiative

5. Student Financial Assistance

State Funding, 2005-07

- HECB recommendation: \$85.8 million increase
- Gov. Gregoire budget: \$26.9 million
- Senate chair budget: \$99.3 million net increase

Helping Low-income, Part-time Students

- HB 1345: Reduce eligibility threshold for State Need Grant to students taking at least 4 credits from the current 6-credit minimum. Bill has passed House.

Master plan policy initiative

6. State/Regional Higher Education Needs Branch Campuses (HB 2707)

- HECB Recommendation: Enhance transfer programs at all branches. Begin admission of freshmen and sophomores at UW Tacoma and WSU Vancouver

State/Regional Needs Assessment (HB 3103)

- Needs assessment framework by Summer 2005
- Preliminary inventory all degree/certificate programs by Summer 2005

Approval of New Degree Programs (HB 3103)

- HECB adoption of revised four-year degree approval guidelines anticipated in June 2005

Master plan policy initiative

7. Improving Transfer Process and Success

New Associate Degree Pathways

- New pathways for nursing, elementary education, and engineering to be completed by Summer 2005

90-Credit Requirement for Transfer Students

- HECB has eliminated policy that blocked students from transferring more than 90 credits to public 4-year colleges

Statewide Student Transfer Advising System

- 2005-07 HECB recommendation: \$1.6 million to implement and begin system operation

Master plan policy initiative

8. Smoothing the Transition to College

Minimum Freshman Admission Standards (HB 3103)

- HECB has proposed revised standards to improve student preparation for and success in college. Five hearings being held in April/May 2005. Board action in Summer 2005

K-12/Higher Education Transitions (HB 3103)

- Completed progress report in January on “Collaborative Efforts to Improve Student Transitions” (HB 3103)
- Many collaborative projects under way

Master plan policy initiative

9. Helping Non-traditional Students

State/Regional Needs Assessment (HB 3103)

- On track to complete statewide inventory of degree programs, including those for non-traditional students, by Summer 2005

Financial Assistance for Low-income Workers

- 2005-07 HECB recommendation: \$2 million for pilot project to assist full-time workers who attend college part-time
- House Bill 1345: Expand eligibility for State Need Grant to students taking at least 4 credits

Master plan policy initiative

10. Greater Accountability

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New Higher Education Accountability Model (HB 3103)

- HECB to adopt new accountability model, developed in collaboration with colleges and universities, by Spring 2005
- New model links statewide and institution-specific measures to master plan goals
- Gov. Gregoire and Senate chair budgets contain additional indicators

Master plan policy initiative

11. Student-focused Data System

Statewide Student Data Warehouse (HB 3103)

- 2005-07 HECB recommendation: \$500,000 enhancement for statewide data system that will track student performance and achievement
- Data-sharing agreement among HECB, OFM and four-year institutions to be signed by Spring 2005
- Student data to be gathered in partnership with OFM

Additional elements of HB 3103

Completed Projects and Reports

- HECB Advisory Council
- 2004 strategic master plan and implementation strategies
- Associate degree pathways progress report
- Report on “K12-to-college transition” collaborations
- Credit equivalency system progress report
- Budget recommendations for higher education
- Displaced Homemaker Program transferred to SBCTC
- Options for schedule of cost studies

Additional elements of HB 3103

Work in Progress

- Statewide needs assessment (framework by Summer 2005)
- Revised degree approval guidelines (draft by Summer 2005)
- Statewide course equivalency system (online student advising system – \$1.6 million budget proposal)
- Student-centered data system (\$500,000 budget request pending)
- New accountability framework linked to state goals
- Additional degree pathways for transfer students

‘Changing Direction’ grant

HECB has received \$6,000 WICHE grant funded by Lumina Foundation

- Grant recognizes work by HECB, legislators and institutions to develop statewide strategic plan that links tuition, state support and financial aid
- Key component: two-day conference involving policy-makers from several states
- Selected elements of the master plan will comprise remaining elements of the project

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